

Bitter divisions: inequality, identity and cooperation

Andrea Martinangeli

Similarities and differences with others (for instance in ethnicity, wealth, profession) allow us to define our sense of who we are and of our position in society: our social identity. This in turn defines the boundaries of the groups we belong to and strengthens our connection with their members, with consequences on social behaviours such as cooperativeness, trust, and conflict among others.

These papers use experimental methods to isolate and investigate whether wealth differences shape people's social identity and what impact they have on their willingness to cooperate: to put their resources together in pursuit of common benefits. What is the impact of wealth inequality per se on cooperation, and is it possible to prevent negative impacts? Are people equally willing to cooperate with others who have different or same wealth level as theirs? What is the impact of individual redistribution choices on future interactions that could result in both income equality or inequality? These three questions form the core of this dissertation.



ANDREA MARTINANGELI
holds a MSc in Economics from the University of 'Tor Vergata'. He will next be a Senior Research Fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Tax Law and Public Finance.

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